

# Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #18

## 29 March 2022

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### Guided tours for Glen Davis Shale Oil Works (an industrial heritage site)

Refer to the link below for an interesting article about the Glen Davis Shale Oil Works which was a shale oil extraction plant that operated between 1940 and 1952 in Glen Davis (about 250 km north-west of Sydney and approximately 80 kilometres north of Lithgow). Today, Glen Davis Shale Oil Works lay in ruins. Guided tours are available every Saturday. <https://www.weekendnotes.com/glen-davis-shale-oil-works/?ap=iK2GpUcPbK&wuid=704860&sb=1&wncf=1>

*(From Frank Johnson)*

### Photographic exhibition by The National Trust (NSW)

The National Trust (NSW) is currently holding a very interesting photographic exhibition at its centre at Observatory Hill. The exhibition is being held in the Annie Wyatt Room, The National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill, and is open Tuesday – Friday, 11am-5pm, until 31 March 2022.

If you can't get to the exhibition, you can purchase a copy of the Exhibition Catalogue online from the National Trust bookshop (which I have done), through the following link: <https://shop.nationaltrust.org.au/products/no-time-to-spare>

The exhibition and catalogue include some engineering items, including Timber Bridges, Glebe Island Bridge, White Bay Power Station, and even Central Station. Definitely worth a look and a National Trust initiative that we in EHS should support. The website provides the following information:

*In 1961 the Women's Committee held an exhibition of photographs they commissioned by Max Dupain at the David Jones Art Gallery. The exhibition featured 34 buildings identified in the Trust's new list of Category A items worthy of preservation.*

*The aim of the current exhibition is to focus the public attention on the fate of our heritage and inspire conversation about the future. What do we want our world to be like, how do we tell our stories, what will we pass on to the next generation?*

*(From Frank Johnson)*

**Big Stuff – heritage machinery webinar (Led by Alison Wain from the University of Canberra). Free event on Mon, 25 April 2022, 10:00 PM – 11:30 PM AEST.**

If you think that heritage is just about old buildings and structures and static museum exhibits, then think again. This webinar is an opportunity for the museum sector to interact with the operating heritage sector and to learn. This is an international webinar (hence the late time) and Alison Wain (University of Canberra) will be known to many from EHA.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/big-stuff-webinar-changing-objects-changing-futures-registration-291911333657>

*(From Neil Hogg)*

**The 90th anniversary of the Sydney Harbour Bridge**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, our world-famous ‘Coathanger’ turns 90 years young. Built over 8 years, it was officially opened on this day in 1932.

Twenty different design proposals had been submitted by six different companies, who were asked to plan either a cantilever or arch bridge. (Despite this, several proposals included suspension bridge suggestions!)

This momentous structure was constructed from steel sections produced in England and fabricated on the shores of Lavender Bay. Towers and pylons are faced with granite from Moruya. And the millions of rivets keeping the structure together were manufactured in Melbourne.

There were tolls right from the outset: sixpence for vehicles and three pence for adult pedestrians. Children, pigs and sheep were charged a penny a head.

The Bridge and its approaches and viaducts (road and rail) were added to the State Heritage Register in 2007.

*(From Firas Shawash per favour of Heritage NSW Facebook page)*

***Contributions needed***

*Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at [fshawash@yahoo.com](mailto:fshawash@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.*

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